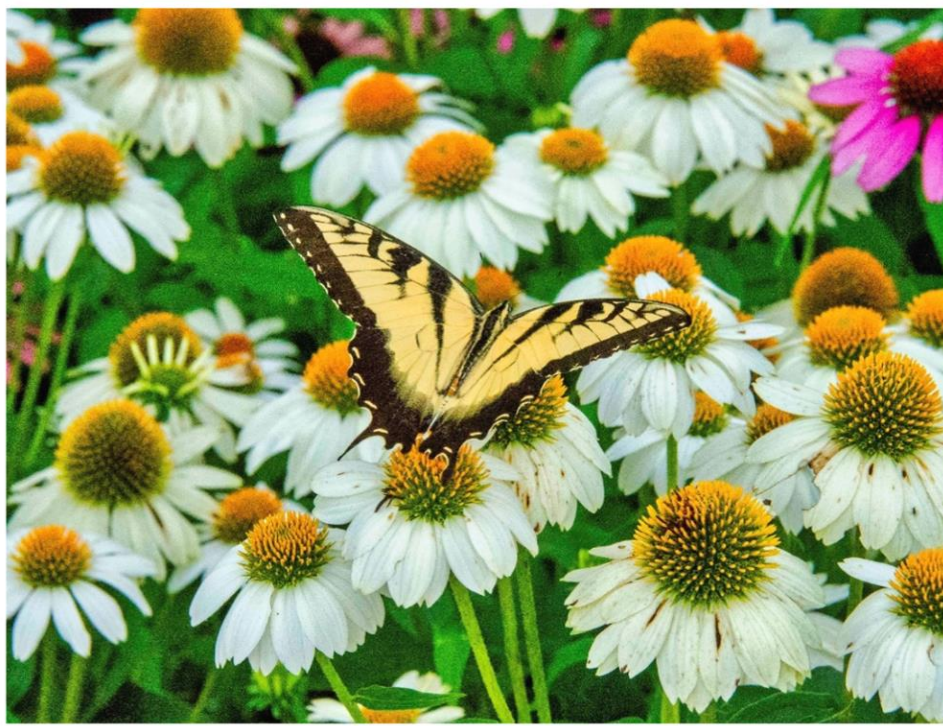


Delaware  
Botanic  
Gardens



# Sustainable Landscapes

Maintaining Balance by  
Stephen Pryce-Lea







## Sustainable Life Choices

Raised a farmers son, on a welsh hillside farm in mid-Wales, we never had any money, so I had to learn to make sustainable choices..

My latest role at the Delaware Botanic Gardens has taught me to appreciate that it takes more than a village to make a change it takes a volunteer community on a mission!

# • Sustainable Gardening

- Manage a Natural Balance by providing habitat to conserve water and money.
- Becoming more sustainable to save money, time and resources.
- How can I help to fix this?
- When should I start?



# Planning for a Greener future

Making sustainable choices for the future means planning for success.

3 small ways you can make a big difference.

- Choosing right plants for the ideal location to ensure survival
- Change habits, train staff and learn to maintain habitats and stop using pesticides.
- Make use of natural resources, improve water retention, composting and mulching with natural readily available materials.





# DBG - Designer Drainage Ditch

Sustainable Landscapes that don't cost the EARTH..

Tax or Drainage Ditches can be a colorful way to manage Storm water.

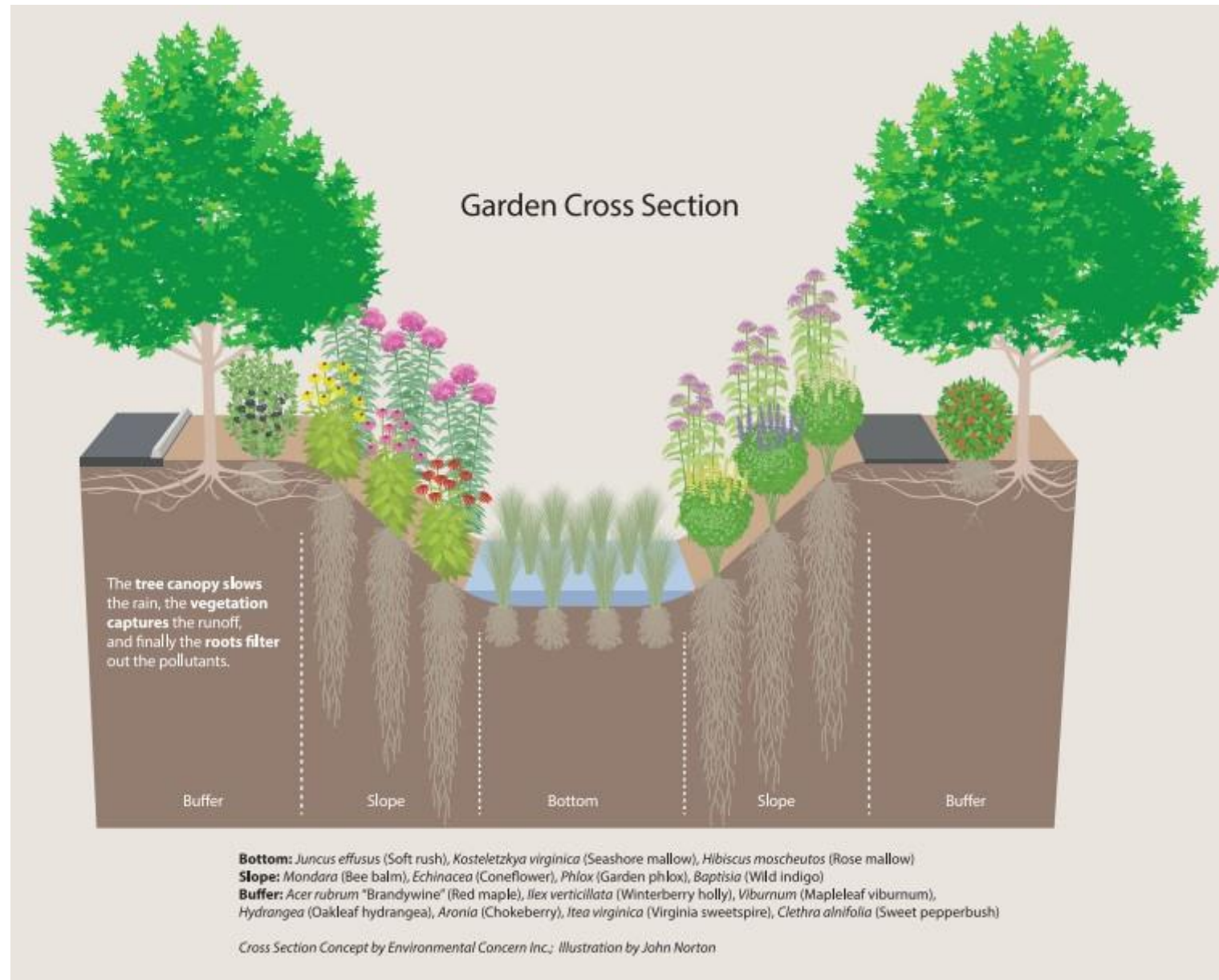
The Rhyne is a fine example of a drainage ditch turned into a pollinator paradise. Native and native cultivars are companion plants on these banks and attract huge numbers of pollinators to the colorful foray.

Simple block planting with mixed colors that attract many colorful insects, butterflies and bees can work in any environment as long as the right plants are selected.

Lawn grasses absorb very little rain water and due to compaction add to the storm water run off, in comparison a mix of trees, shrubs perennials support healthy soils and enable rain water absorption uptake.



# Plants and Storm Water Management





# DBG - Pollinator Pathway – Pesticide Free Habitat for Wildlife

Sustainable No-Mow Landscapes from seed or plugs better still a combination of both.



# DBG - Oak Grove – Planting Trees for Sustainability

Planting trees is the number one most significant thing you can do today!

Choosing a tree that has a high wildlife rating plays a significant role in attract beneficial insects and wildlife to your garden.

Planting multiple trees that support each other in groves will create a habitat, provide shelter and generate food annually for centuries.

Oak trees can supports over  
500 species of caterpillars  
140 species of birds  
120 types of mammals  
60 species of reptiles

Over 15 billion trees are felled every year! A mature Oak can transpire 40,000 gallons of water a year.





# Choose Native Plants

- 1,600 different species of native plants in Delaware
- 18,000 species of native plants in North America
- 5000 non-native plants in the USA

## Delaware Invasive Plants

- 720 non-native plants in DE
- 75 Invasive plants in Delaware
- 72 more plants are being monitored

Class	Invasive	Watch List
Trees/Shrubs	23	7
Perennials	52	65
Total	75	72

# Mow versus No-Mow

Lawn care is a \$30 billion-a-year industry

**Mowing must be mass brainwashing, spending untold hours growing, cutting a non-native monoculture grass treated with poisons that kill it's competition and insects.**



**Mow a pathway thru a Meadow, tend to it as little or as often as you wish. Requiring no fertilizers or pesticides native meadow plants and grasses thrive on neglect.**

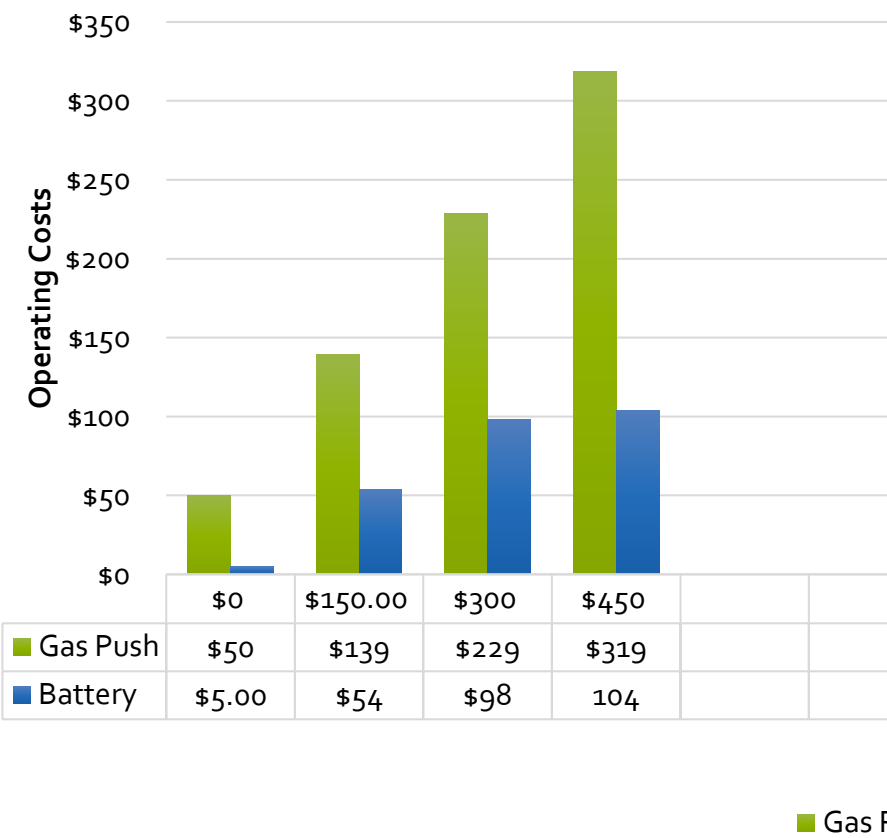


Americans use 800 million gallons of gas each year to power lawnmowers and other lawn care equipment, according to the EPA, spill 17 million gallons in the process, polluting waterways.



# Gas versus Battery Powered Garden Equipment

Cost comparison 4 year plan of Gas versus Battery Lawn Mower.



Easy to see the benefits of switching to battery powered golf carts, vehicles and garden machinery. Replacing old gas guzzling equipment with electric powered batter operated machines has many benefits included

- Noise reduction
- No dangerous fumes
- Less maintenance
- Lightweight and easy to use.

Like it or not the battery age is here to stay and if you are going to take sustainability seriously then here's a great start.



## Make it Home...

Gardening is the number one pastime for keeping mentally, physically and financially fit.

Add sustainability to the mix and your going to reap the benefits of some forward planning, reaping the benefits of biological control happening in your yard or garden.

Those caterpillars on the trees are food for young birds, those dragonflies and nocturnal bats are eating millions of mosquitoes.

However you choose to garden, love what you do and give nature a helping hand.